



NEVADA

Flood Management News

Fall 2006

Nevada Division of Water Resources

Volume 9, Issue 2

NEW FLOODPLAIN PROGRAM MANAGER

Introducing Christie James

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I would like to introduce Christie James, Nevada's new State Floodplain Program Manager. Christie is a graduate of UC Davis with a BS in Environmental Policy Analysis and Regional Planning, and holds a Master's degree in Applied Communication from University of Denver.

Christie will be coordinating the state's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and working with communities throughout Nevada on floodplain management issues. She will administer the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program, encouraging communities to develop comprehensive flood mitigation plans and to implement measures to reduce flood losses. Christie will also be assisting communities as the digitized maps of Map Modernization become a reality.

Christie's first few months on the job have been busy with training conferences and seminars. She went to a seminar on the updated Community Rating System (CRS) and another on the new Elevation Certificates. She has participated in sessions about Map Modernization, and attended the Floodplain Management Association's (FMA) Annual Conference in San Diego where she moderated a panel on Floodplain Mapping. Christie traveled to the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD for their class on Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP. These conferences provide her with a wealth of information to assist Nevada's communities with their mitigation efforts.

Some of you have already met Christie as she has traveled around the state with Sarah Owen, FEMA's Flood Planner for Nevada. Together they have conducted Community Assistance Visits (CAV's) for the City of Reno, as well as Washoe, Mineral and Churchill Counties. With Henry Chau, from FEMA's Region IX, they put on the Duties of the Local Floodplain Administrators class in Ely.

Christie is quickly learning about the issues you face every day. Please take the opportunity to meet with her any time she is in your area, or when you come to Carson City. Christie is looking forward to the challenges of her new position and I hope you will welcome her to your community. If you have any questions regarding the NFIP, FEMA flood maps or would like additional information about the flood programs, please feel free to contact Christie at (775) 684-2860 or cjames@water.nv.gov.

Tracy Taylor, PE, State Engineer
Nevada Division of Water Resources



Hello from Christie James, State Floodplain Program Manager

Dear Flood Management
News Readers:

Hi! I'm Christie James, the current State Floodplain Program Manager and NFIP Coordinator. I hesitate to say "new" because I've been working hard since May to get beyond that moniker. I know more than I knew yesterday and less than I'll know tomorrow. I've enjoyed these first few months as I've gotten to know some of you and gotten to know lots about floodplain management. As you may have heard, I've been running around Nevada, California and Emmitsburg, Maryland getting up to speed on issues that affect all of us here in Nevada.

As I understand my job, I am a liaison between local communities and FEMA to help people understand FEMA's regulations and programs. I'll keep you abreast of continuous education opportunities and encourage you to take part in the numerous professional development events that come our way. I'll support your events, and do what I can

to answer your questions and point you in the right direction to solve your problems. I may even be able to help you find FEMA money to fund your projects!

Every five years or so, I'll do a Community Assistance Visit in your community, which entails my reviewing the community's floodplain management ordinance, driving the neighborhoods built in your floodplains to see if projects that are being built are in compliance with the local ordinance, and then sitting down with the floodplain administrator to discuss processes and any questions about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP.)

The big news is that the digitized Flood Insurance Rate Maps (dFIRMs) will start to become a reality for Northern Nevada in 2007, and Clark County will get some updating. Please look for a short update article from FEMA in this newsletter. I will be assisting in outreach to help the communities understand how these maps will affect them.

I look forward to working with you. Please feel free to call me at (775)684-2860.

New Years Flood 2006 Lessons Learned on How to get FEMA Funds Faster!

By Tim Hunt, Division of Water Resources

On December 31, 2005 through January 4, 2006 severe storms caused severe flooding throughout Northern Nevada. Six counties were subsequently declared federal disaster areas - Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, Storey, Washoe, and later Elko.

From February 27, 2006 through June 12, 2006, Steve Walmsley and myself, Tim Hunt, of the Nevada Division of Water Resources were assigned to assist FEMA personnel in site investigation and Project Worksheet (PW) preparation. Assistance was initially expected to be for approximately four weeks, but due to the lack of documentation by the majority of the applicants, our tour of duty was extended to over twelve weeks.

The main thing for potential recipients of FEMA funds to remember is to have detailed documentation of damages: work that has been completed, the amount that has been spent on the facility, the work to be completed and an estimate of the cost it will take to complete the re-

pair work. The following is a list of what FEMA needs to create the Project Worksheets to fund all or a portion of the repair to a damaged facility.

Contract work

Work completed: copies of invoices.

Work to be completed: written estimates or bids to restore the facility. FEMA generally requires a minimum of 3 bids to fund a project unless it is for emergency repair work. Official bids are not required at the time the PW is written but may be before funds are released to the applicant.

Force account

Work completed: a list of all employees, with hours worked at the site, hourly wage and benefit rate, including time-sheets; list of all equipment used including type of equipment with make and model number and hours used at the site.

Work to be completed: a list of all employees expected to work at the site, hours expected to work at the site, hourly wage and benefit rate; a list of all equipment expected to be used including type

of equipment with make and model number and hours expected to be used at the site. Any equipment used to transport other equipment or labor to the site can also be eligible.



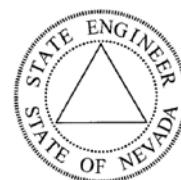
Insurance

Is the facility insured? If the facility is insured the applicant must first submit a claim to their insurance company, and the insurance company must indicate what is covered and how much they will pay. If the facility is eligible, FEMA will pay the appropriate percentage over and above the amount paid by insurance including the deductible to restore the facility.



Hugh Ricci, NV State Engineer, 2000-2006, Tracy Taylor, present State Engineer and Dean Heller, Secretary of State celebrate Taylor's appointment to State Engineer.

Introducing Tracy Taylor, Nevada's 20th State Engineer



Allen Biaggi, Director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recently named Tracy Taylor to succeed Hugh Ricci as Nevada's 20th State Engineer. Taylor, a 22-year employee of the Division of Water Resources, is a registered professional engineer who has served for the past six years as one of two deputy state engineers. He has held various positions with the Division of Water Resources such as Hydraulic Engineer, Chief of Water Rights, and Deputy State Engineer in charge of the Engineering Branch. Over the years, his responsibilities have included, but were not limited to approval of underground and surface water uses, subdivision review, dam review and permitting, making recommendations to the State Engineer on all issues involving the Engineering Branch, and preparation of the budget and proposed legislation. This position and the Deputy State Engineer in charge of the Water Rights Branch, act in the State Engineer's absence.

"The leadership transition in water resources will be seamless as Tracy brings to bear his more than two decades of experience in the division," said Biaggi. "Together with his thoughtful approach and unmatched experience, Tracy's dedication to and understanding of state water law and its application has been honed under several prior state engineers including, most recently, Mr. Ricci."

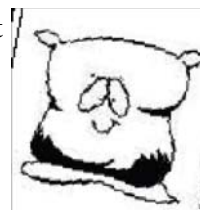
The Division of Water Resources is responsible for administering and enforcing Nevada water law, which includes the adjudication and appropriation of groundwater and surface water in the state. The administrative head of the division – the State Engineer – is an office created by the Nevada Legislature in 1903. The division also reviews the construction and operation of dams; licenses and regulates well drillers and water rights surveyors; reviews flood control projects, water plans and assists with water inventories; and provides technical assistance to the public and other governmental agencies.

Taylor, who has been a Carson City resident since the age of 3, was born in Blackfoot, ID. He received his BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1982. Among his other interests, Taylor has designed and constructed four homes, and coached his son and daughter in various youth sports such as basketball, soccer and baseball. He enjoys mountain biking, water skiing and snow skiing, as well as many other outdoor activities.

Kelvin Hickenbottom has been promoted to the position of Deputy State Engineer, replacing Taylor. Hickenbottom is a registered engineer with 16 years experience with DWR. Prior to that he spent ten years with Alameda County, CA Public Works. His work there included working with the National Flood Insurance Program.

Flood Awareness Weeks Organized

In recognition of the upcoming flood season, both Truckee Meadows Flood Project and Carson River Corridor Working Group initiated separate Flood Awareness Weeks. The Truckee Meadows Flood Expo, held November 15 at Grand Sierra Resort (formerly Reno Hilton) was the center point of Flood Awareness Week in the Truckee Meadows. Emergency Preparedness organizations shared information about what a flood week of November 13-17 found the breaking Spanish flood protection project, a press conference at the Truckee River White-water Park, and the introduction of Seymour the Sandbag, official spokesperson for flood education.



The week of December 4-8 was Flood Awareness Week along the Carson River Corridor. Literature was available in various spots around the area, as well as newspaper articles highlighting past flood experiences and the importance of planning for the future. The week ended with an Agricultural Producers Workshop on Friday, December 8.

HUGH RICCI, STATE ENGINEER, RETIRES JUNE 2006

Gov. Kenny Guinn announced the retirement of State Engineer Hugh Ricci, administrator of the Nevada Division of Water Resources. Ricci, 62, had been with the state for 36 years, and served as State Engineer since 2000. Ricci's retirement was effective June 17, 2006.

"The State of Nevada has truly benefited from the vast experience and unmatched integrity of Hugh Ricci," Gov. Guinn said. "Hugh's steady and thoughtful approach, together with his fair application of the state's body of water law, has been integral to the proper protection and management of Nevada's most precious natural resource. His knowledge will be greatly missed, but I know Hugh has put tremendous personal energy into preparing the Division of Water Resources' staff to carry on his good work. On behalf of the citizens of Nevada, I want to extend our deep appreciation to Hugh for his many years of service to the state and wish him and his wife, Pamela, the very best as they chart a new course in their lives."

Simultaneous to the Governor's announcement of Ricci's retirement, Director Allen Biaggi of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources named Deputy State Engineer Tracy Taylor as Ricci's successor. Taylor, a 22-year employee of the Division of Water Resources, is a registered professional engineer who has served for the past six years as one of two deputy state engineers.

The Division of Water Resources is responsible for administering and enforcing Nevada water law, which includes the adjudication and appropriation of groundwater and surface water in the state. The administrative head of the division – the State Engineer – is an office created by the Nevada Legislature in 1903. The division also reviews the construction and operation of dams; licenses and regulates well drillers and water rights surveyors; reviews flood control projects, water plans and assists with water inventories; and provides technical assistance to the public and other governmental agencies.

Hallmarks of Ricci's tenure as state engineer include an emphasis on making all pertinent water resource records – including permits, certificates, maps, rulings, orders, well logs and ownership summaries –

available to the public online, as well as a major initiative to reduce the backlog of water rights applications and title work, while at the same time increasing the timeliness of decisions on new applications.

"I am grateful for the privilege to serve Governor Guinn and the people of the great state of Nevada during my tenure as the state engineer," said Ricci. "It has also been a great honor to be the state engineer at the time of the office's 100th anniversary. As a state engineer, I have been in the select company of only 18 other individuals who have had this privilege, and I have also had the opportunity to work with a knowledgeable staff of great people who are capable of meeting all the water resource challenges they will face."

During his public service career, Ricci spent 25 years with the Division of Water Resources and seven years with the Division of Environmental Protection – both agencies of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – and also worked for the agency then known as the Nevada Department of Highways for four years. Ricci, a Nevada Registered Professional Engineer, is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, and a U. S. Army veteran.



Present and Former
State Engineers at
Hugh's Retirement Party,
from left to right,
Tracy Taylor
current
Hugh Ricci
2000-2006
Mike Turnipseed
1990-2000
Pete Morros
1981-90
Roland Westergard

FEMA Updates Mapping Timeline

Updated mapping is ongoing for incorporated and unincorporated Washoe County, West Wendover, and portions of unincorporated Douglas County. A Physical Map Revision (PMR) is planned to be started shortly for Mesquite and unincorporated areas of Clark County to include a restudy of the Virgin River. FEMA Region IX will initiate countywide upgrades this year for Carson City and Lyon County. Next priority is countywide upgrades for Storey and Churchill Counties followed by Humboldt County, Elko County, additional work in Douglas County, and, dependent on FY 2008 funding, Nye and Pershing counties. Plans may change dependent on State and/or local input or unforeseen changes.



Homeowners Disaster Assistance Program

To assist persons whose homes are damaged in a disaster, the 2005 Legislature enacted AB 572 commonly known as the DMV rebate bill. Section 5 of AB 572 requires the Division of Emergency Management to develop a program using \$5,000,000 of the rebate money to provide grants to homeowners whose primary residence is damaged in a disaster.

The money in this account is managed in accordance with the criteria prescribed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Repair and Replacement portion of the Individual Assistance (IA) Program.

Grants are paid on a reimbursement basis. The maximum grant amount for the repair of a damaged home will be \$5,400. The maximum grant amount for a home determined to have been destroyed will be \$10,900. Grants are not taxable. For further information, please contact the Division of Emergency Management's Recovery & Mitigation Section at (775) 687-4240.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program



The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program provides funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, and communities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. Funding these plans and projects reduces overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations. PDM grants are to be awarded on a competitive basis and without reference to state allocations, quotas, or other formula-based allocation of funds. The application guidance is expected late October with an application period open until February/March of 2007. All information will be posted on the Division of Emergency Management's website <http://dem.state.nv.us/UpcomingEvents.htm>.

PDM Ineligible Project Activities:

- Major flood control projects
- Water quality infrastructure projects
- Projects that address ecological issues

related to land and forest management

- Warning and alert notification systems
- Phased or partial projects
- Studies that do not result in a project (e.g., engineering designs, feasibility studies, or drainage studies that are not integral to a proposed project)
- Flood studies or flood mapping
- Dry flood proofing of residential structures
- Generators for non-critical facilities
- Demolition/rebuild projects
- Projects that solely address a manmade hazard
- Response and communication equipment
- Projects that solely address maintenance or repairs of existing structures, facilities, or infrastructure (e.g., dredging and removal)
- Localized flood control projects that do not protect a critical facility
- Any project for which another Federal agency has primary authority.

Planning Activities:

Eligibility for a project grant is dependent on the Applicant and Sub-applicant having a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan by the last date of National Evaluation. The outcome of a mitigation planning subgrant award must be a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan that complies with the requirements of 44 CFR Part 201. The planning grant deliverable can be a new hazard mitigation plan, an upgrade of an existing FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan or an update of an already FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan.

More information about this program is found at the following FEMA website <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pdm/fy2006.shtm> or contact Elizabeth Ashby at (775) 687-3114.

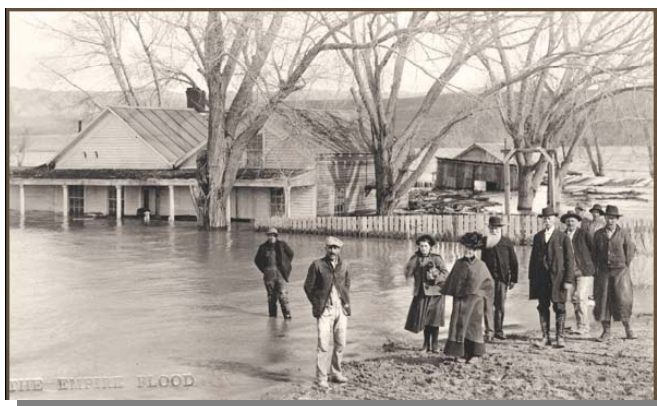
Nevada Flood Chronology Web Site Available for the Carson River Watershed

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Department of the Interior, with the support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Nevada's Floodplain Management Program, Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR), has developed a web site that makes historic flood information for the Carson River Basin publicly available. In conjunction with floodplain mapping, NDWR has identified the task of compiling flood-hazard information in a format accessible and understandable to the general public and Federal, State, regional, and local agencies.

As new areas are developed to accommodate growth, communities are increasingly faced with the need to develop in flood-prone areas. The web site contains information to help increase the understanding of the extent and frequency of flood hazards and risks in the Carson River Basin. The focus of the web site is on existing data, both measured and estimated, and for flood events prior to streamflow monitoring.

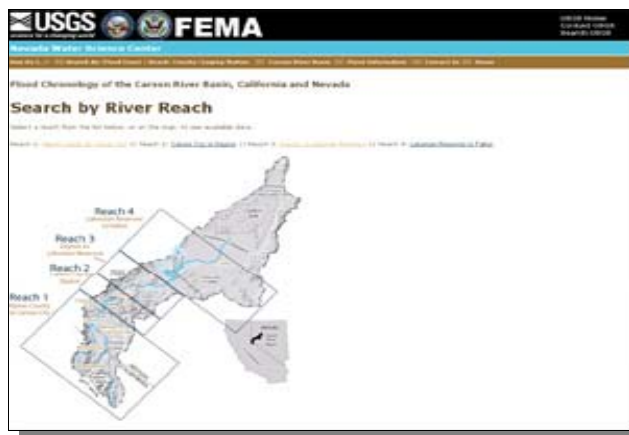
Information may be viewed in several ways:

By specific flood event: Events can be viewed by date, river reach (section of the river), or county. Available information may include photographs, video clips, flood-frequency analyses, meteorological data, narratives, streamflow data, and links to related web sites.

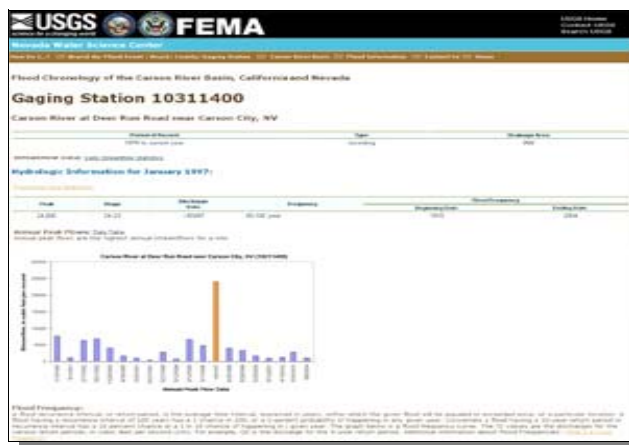


Main-channel flooding at the Hoover Hotel, Dayton, Nev., 1906. Photograph courtesy of the University of Nevada, Reno, Special Collection.

By specific area: Areas can be viewed on maps which show the extent of river reaches and county boundaries. The county pages include zoning or land-use maps that show locations of specific events.



By gaging station: Gaging stations can be selected from the gaging-station map or by selecting a flood event, county, or river reach. Available hydrologic information includes annual peak flows, flood frequencies, and links to flood maps.



The web site is available at <<http://nevada.usgs.gov/crflfd/>>. Additional information on this and other USGS studies of water resources in Nevada may be obtained by e-mail to <GS-W-NVpublic-info@usgs.gov> or by visiting the USGS home page at <<http://nevada.usgs.gov>>.

Emergency Management Institute Training

These courses are FREE. You just have to pay for your meal ticket.

Courses Conducted by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI)

Mitigation Curriculum

Schedule for

E172 - Advanced HAZUS Multi-hazards for Flood

June 25-28, 2007
or August 13-16, 2007

E194 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts

January 15-18, 2007

E273 - Managing Floodplain Development thru the NFIP

August 27-30, 2007

E276 - Benefit-Cost Analysis: Entry-Level Training

Not available at this time.



E278 - NFIP/Community Rating System (CRS)

March 5-8 or August 13-16,

or Sept. 24-27, 2007

E279 - Retrofitting Flood Prone Residential Buildings

April 16-20, 2007

E296 - HAZUS Multi-Hazard/DMA 2000 Risk Assessment

July 16-19, 2007

E313 - Basic HAZUS Multi-hazards (MH)

December 4-7, 2006
Or June 11-14, 2007

E344 - Mitigation Planning for Tribal Officials

April 2-5, 2007

How to Apply: Applicants to EMI must submit a Standard General Admission Form (FEMA Form 75-5) to the Nevada Floodplain Management Program, mthorson@water.nv.gov, or by FAX (775) 684-2811.

Forms and detailed information about the courses are available on FEMA's web site: training.fema.gov.

FEMA Training for Lenders and Insurance Agents



**Courses Conducted by
FEMA Insurance Contractor,
Computer Sciences Corp.**

None scheduled in Nevada
at this time.

Check the FEMA web site
www.fema.gov/regions/ix/r9_nfip.shtm
for Lender and Insurance Agent Workshops
to be held in
Region IX.

How to Apply: Please contact Edie Lohmann at (916) 780-7889, elohman@csc.com.



Nevada Floodplain Management Training

**Courses Conducted by
FEMA Region IX
and NDWR**

None scheduled at this time.

Check the NDWR web site
water.nv.gov/flood/training_calendar.htm
for new postings of workshops
as they become available.

How to Apply: For more information or to register, contact Mary Thorson at (775) 684-2865, mthorson@water.nv.gov.

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